

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 3810

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, UNGA, KS, EC

SUBJ: ECUADOR AND FORTHCOMING UN SPECIAL SESSION

1. SUMMARY: PROSPECTS FOR MORE PRODUCTIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH ECUADOREANS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES SEEM IMPROVED WITH RETIREMENT OF FORMER ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR TO UN BENITEZ AND REPLACEMENT OF DEPARTMENT UN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS HEAD VALLADARES IN FOREIGN OFFICE. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY OFFICER TOOK ADVANTAGE OF COURTESY CALL ON LICENCIADO AUGUSTO PEREZ ANDA, NEW HEAD OF FOREIGN OFFICE DEPARTMENT OF UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS REPLACING VALLADARES, TO DISCUSS IN GENERAL TERMS OUTLOOK FOR UPCOMING UNITED NATIONS MEETINGS. PEREZ WAS AWARE OF OUR DISCONTENT WITH 6TH SPECIAL SESSION AND REACTED FAVORABLY TO EXPRESSIONS REALTING TO US INTEREST IN FINDING REAL SOLUTIONS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS FOR THE MANY PROBLEMS FACING THEM. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT LARGE "AUTOMATIC MAJORITY" PROCEEDINGS WERE NOT PRODUCTIVE.

3. PEREZ COMMENTED THAT HE HAD SPENT SEVEN YEARS IN HIS COUNTRY'S CONSULATE GENERAL IN NEW YORK AND HAD
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JUST RETURNED HOME AFTER A SEVEN YEAR TOUR AS CONSUL

GENERAL IN ANTWERP. IN BETWEEN, HE SAID, HE HAD BEEN HEAD OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DEPARTMENT OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS FOR THREE YEARS. PEREZ SAID HE HAD GREAT RESPECT FOR THE UNITED STATES GAINED DURING HIS TIME IN NEW YORK AND EARLIER AS A STUDENT IN THE U.S. HE PROMISED EVERY ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION WITH US WHICH HE COULD PROVIDE WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF HIS OFFICE. PEREZ SAID THAT NOW THAT AMBASSADOR BENITEZ HAD BEEN RETIRED, HIS OFFICE WOULD BE MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN IT HAD BEEN AND HE INTENDED TO HAVE PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE ECUADOREAN UN DELEGATION ON ALL ITEMS. EVEN SHOULD PRESENT FINANCE MINISTER JAIME MONCAYO BE NAMED AS BENITEZ' REPLACEMENT, AS IS RUMORED, HE WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND ON PEREZ' ADVICE MUCH MORE THAN BENITEZ HAD DONE. BENITEZ, WITH HIS LONG EXPERIENCE AT THE UN AND CZATURE AT HOME, HAD BEEN A PRETTY FREE-WHEELING TYPE.

4. TO A DIRECT QUESTION ON KOREAN ISSUE PEREZ SAID THAT ECUADOR WOULD SUPPORT SOUTH KOREAN POSITION. HE NOTED THAT SOUTH KOREA HAD EMBASSY IN QUITO AND DID NOT FORE-SEE A CHANGE IN ECUADOR'S SUPPORT FOR IT.

5. PEREZ SAID HTAT THE ECUADOREAN POSITION PAPERS ON UN ISSUES WOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF JUNE AND URGED THAT WE PRESENT OUR VIEWS ON ANY SPECIFIC ITEMS WE HOLD ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF JUNE. THUS, HE SAID, THE GOE WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE OUR VIEWS INTO CONSIDERATION.

6. COMMENT: ATMOSPHERE OF FRANKNESS AND RECEPTIVITY DEMONSTRATED BY PEREZ WAS CHEERING AND GIVES HOPE FOR BETTER COOPERATION BETWEEN EMBASSY AND FOREIGN MINISTRY ON THESE MATTERS. END COMMENT.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INFORM US OF ANY SPECIFIC ITEMS DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS WORTHY OF PRESENTING TO PEREZ SO THAT HE MAY TAKE THEM INTO CONSIDERATION AS HE OFFERED TO DO.
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